

NYSAA NEWSLETTER



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The editor and the NYSAA Executive Board encourage any NYSAA member who would like to submit an article, letter, editorial or news items to submit it electronically to David Moyer at the address listed above.



Announcing the 104th Annual Conference of the New York State Archaeological Association

April 21-23, 2023

Hosted by

THE INCORPORATED ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

U.S. mail: 29 Amy Rodt Dr., Monroe, NY 10950
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Founded 1958



Due to the Pandemic it has been three years since our last New York State conference and our chapter is thrilled to host the 104th conference. In addition to providing a platform to share our research during the last three years, another objective of this conference is to bring the members of NYSAA and NYAC together in an in-person meeting so that we can personally share our camaraderie, as well as our knowledge.

Location: Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah Hotel, 3 Executive Blvd, Suffern, NY 10901

Hotel Reservations: For hotel reservations contact the Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah directly at (845) 357-4800. Please specify you are calling in regard to the NYSAA Conference and **Group Code: SAA** when booking to ensure appropriate room rate of \$129/night (taxes and fees apply). Reservations with the hotel must be made by **March 31, 2023** to receive the Conference Rate.

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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Submit the form on Page 2 by Monday, April 10, 2023. Please fill out a registration form for each person attending. Print the information and check off the appropriate boxes for registration and meals. Total the registration and meal costs and send your check along with a copy of the registration form (page 2) to the following address by Monday, April 10, 2023. **Make your check out to the chapter, IOCCNYSAA.** Meal plan prices are inclusive. You can choose from the meal plan selection below or choose to buy your meals on your own. There is a restaurant in the hotel and others nearby. Send your registration form along with a check for the appropriate amount to:

Wayne Knapp
29 Amy Todt Dr.
Monroe, NY 10950

**104th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
April 21-23, 2023
REGISTRATION FORM**

Name:	Phone:
Address	Email:
City, State & Zip:	Chapter:

Please check off the appropriate registration fee and choose which meals you wish to take:	Check off Selections	Payment Due
Conference Fee - \$45.00		
With Student ID - \$20.00		
Friday Dinner Buffet - \$31.00		
Saturday Breakfast Buffet - \$21.00		
Saturday Lunch Buffet - \$23.00		
Banquet Entrée Plated Dinner (Selection below) - \$44.00		
Sunday Breakfast Buffet - \$21.00		
		Total:
Chose one of the following meals for the banquet:		
Roast Sliced Sirloin w/a Bordelaise Sauce		
Chicken Madeira		
Broiled Salmon w/Lemon White Wine Sauce		
Vegetarian		
<i>*Please note any dietary restrictions:</i>		
Field Trips Free : Indicate which ones you will attend:	Check off Selections	
Friday, April 21, 1:00pm-4:00pm: Sterling Forge		
Sunday, April 23, 1:30-4:30pm: Iona Island		

104th Annual Conference of the New York State Archaeological Association (continued)

During The Conference: Walk-ins can attend the presentations once the registration fee is paid. However, they cannot purchase the meal plan. They can purchase meals at the hotel restaurant or others nearby.

Covid-19 Health and Safety: If you test positive for Covid-19 and your arrival at the conference is within the quarantine period suggested by the health department, we respectfully request that you refrain from attending. Your meal plan must be canceled by Sunday, April 16th. After that it is non-refundable. Our chapter can refund your registration fee. Room reservation refunds will be handled by the hotel. According to the hotel, guests can cancel their room without charge up to 24 hours prior to check in. This also applies to other medical emergencies.

Open Call for Papers:

This is an open call for papers from any NYSAA member interested in submitting an abstract on any archaeological topic related to the prehistory or history of New York State or surrounding region. Students especially are encouraged to submit proposals for posters to be displayed at the meeting.

*Papers, as presented, are limited 20 minutes in length.

*One paper or poster per presenter, although individuals may coauthor multiple papers.

*Presenters must be a member of NYSAA (coauthored papers must include at least one NYSAA member).

*Paper or poster abstracts, author's name(s), affiliation, and AV requirements must be submitted by March 1, 2023 for consideration.

*All presenters need to pay the conference registration fee, \$45.00 (\$20.00 for students), and must be received by April 10, 2023.

*Send your abstract proposal of about 250 words attached as a Microsoft Word document to Program Chair:

Cory Harris, Prof. of Anthropology, SUNY Orange cory.harris@sunyorange.edu 845- 341-4464.

Field Trip Options: Free

Friday, April 21, 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Hike to Sterling Forge, Sterling Forest S. P. Doc Bayne will lead a tour and hike to the forge where the Great Chain placed across the Hudson River at West Point was made during the Revolutionary War. Proper footwear for wooded trails is recommended. Attendees should also bring water, a snack and / or bagged lunch if attending this tour. Group will meet at the US Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Visitor Center, Sterling Forest State Park, 115 Old Forge Rd, Tuxedo, NY 10987.

Sunday, April 23, 1:30am - 4:30pm, Iona Island Doc Bayne, expert on Iona Island, will lead an approximately 3 hour leisurely-paced walking tour of the island. Iona is a National Natural Landmark located in Bear Mountain State Park and boasts an extensive history that includes Native American encampments, 17th Century Dutch settlement and, in 1777, the British used the island to support the attack on Fort Clinton. In 1849 Dr. C. W. Grant purchased the island to do horticulture, and in 1869, Iona became a summer resort. From 1899 to 1965 Iona Island is a munitions depot for the U.S. Navy. In 1965 Iona Island is purchased by the Palisades Interstate Park System - becoming an active wildlife sanctuary. Iona is closed to the public except for special occasions, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to see the island firsthand. Be sure to bring water and a snack, and wear comfortable, sturdy shoes. For directions enter Iona Island in your phone. Group will meet at Iona Island in the parking lot by the railroad tracks. Do not cross the railroad tracks. (Iona is just off 9W, approximately 1 mile south of the Bear Mountain Inn.)

104th Annual Conference of the New York State Archaeological Association (continued)

Banquet Speaker:

Featured banquet speaker is **Richard Veit**, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of Anthropology at Monmouth University. Veit is a North American Historical archaeologist whose research focuses on the Middle Atlantic Region between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. His work focuses on commemoration, symbolism, vernacular architecture, and military sites archaeology. He has authored or co-authored numerous articles and reviews and eight books, including *Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State* (Rutgers Press 2002), *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones History in the Landscape* (co-authored by Mark Nonestied, Rutgers Press 2008), and *New Jersey: A History of the Garden State* (co-authored with Maxine Lurie, Rutgers Press 2012). In 2007 he was the recipient of Monmouth University's distinguished teacher award.



Dr. Richard Veit, PhD

“A Monument to Fallen Royalty”: Rediscovering Joseph Bonaparte’s Point Breeze Estate in Bordentown, New Jersey, will discuss recent archaeological excavations in Bordentown, New Jersey that have unearthed the remains of Joseph Bonaparte’s palatial estate, Point Breeze. Joseph, the elder brother of Napoleon Bonaparte and former King of Spain and Naples, fled to the United States in 1815. He lived in New Jersey from 1816 until 1839.

Banquet Cocktail Hour Free Drink: To celebrate the return of our state conference, NYSAA is offering everyone who attends the banquet a free drink from the bar during the cocktail hour. A free drink voucher will be provided with your meal tickets. Enjoy!

Bookroom Reservation: Contact David Johnson at 845-454-1860 or globaldj@optonline.net to reserve a table.

Parker, Ritchie & Wray and the SAA, 1934-1938

Mima Brown Kapches, Independent Researcher, Toronto, Ontario
mkapches@gmail.com

Sometimes when you are conducting archival research you come across documents you know might be of interest to others, even though they are not of primary interest to you. So what do you do? There are two options; one file and forget, or two, share so that others can access them without having to do the archival work. These shared documents might provide significant information or data of a footnote quality. I think the documents presented here are the footnote variety about three New York State archaeologists, A.C. Parker, W.A. Ritchie and Charles Wray. There will also be a brief note about R.S. MacNeish.

In March of 2017 I visited the National Anthropological Archives, of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (NAA, NMNH), to examine the archives of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). My goal was to find correspondence between the executive of the SAA and Peter M. Pringle, an Ontario collector, in the mid-1930s. In the course of this research I discovered some documents that might be of historical interest to the members of the New York State Archaeological Association.

The Society for American Archaeology was established on December 28, 1934, at the Roosevelt Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA (Guthe 1967, Kapches 2021). W.A. Ritchie was present at the meeting and signed the SAA founding document, which was hastily written on the hotel's stationery (see Figure 1 in Kapches 2021). Parker, who did not sign the document, and seems not to have been at the meeting, was proclaimed the inaugural President of the SAA, a post he held for one year.

At the time of founding of the SAA membership consisted of two categories, affiliates and fellows; affiliates were general members and fellows were professionals who had published and were employed at institutions, archaeological surveys or museums as practicing archaeologists. Affiliates had to be nominated by fellows, one of whom personally knew the nominee. This was to prevent pot-hunters from becoming members.

Fellows had to fill out their own nomination form with information about their careers, their training (and with whom), their practical experience and list their publications. In November of 1935 Parker and Ritchie filled out their forms (Figures 1 and 2). Parker listed his experience with Frederic Ward Putnam (Peabody Museum), M. Raymond Harrington (American Museum of Natural History, New York), as N.Y. State Archaeologist under John Mason Clark (State Geologist), and then from 1925 in Rochester. Ritchie listed his experience with Parker beginning in 1925 and highlighted his excavation of "more than 35 archaeological sites in various parts of New York and Pennsylvania."

Many articles have been written about Parker and Ritchie (see the articles in NYSAA's The Bulletin No. 104, 1992). These SAA archival documents provide a snapshot of their personal accounting of their careers as of 1935. Parker's application was dated November 15 and Ritchie's November 25. Parker nominated Ritchie. Parker, then president of the SAA for 1935, had no nominator (neither did some other well-known archaeologists like Diamond Jenness and Warren K. Moorehead). Oddly, their nominations as fellows had been put before the SAA board on November 15, 1935, so these forms seemed to be a formality for the records (Figure 3 in Kapches 2021).

From the onset Ritchie was an enthusiastic supporter of the SAA and encouraged the Canadian Pringle to join, on June 26 1935 he wrote "I would suggest that you become a member of the Society for American Archeology of which 'American Antiquity' is the official organ. Membership is confined to professional workers and reputable amateur collectors and you would surely qualify....if you are interested I will sponsor you" (Rochester Museum and Science Center, W.A. Ritchie Archives.) Instead of joining the SAA Pringle chose to join the Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter of NYSAA for one year, joining the SAA the next year.

I would assume that Ritchie and Parker encouraged Charles F. Wray, one their best known acolytes (his career is also detailed in an article in the 1992 Bulletin), to join the SAA. On October 9 1938 Wray, on University of Rochester stationery wrote Dr. Carl E. Guthe (the Secretary-Treasurer) to ask to join the SAA. He enclosed a money order for \$6 to pay for the back two numbers of Volume 1 of American Antiquity (\$3) and his membership dues (\$3) for 1938-39.

NOMINATION FOR FELLOW IN THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

The following paragraphs are quoted from the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society for American Archaeology:

- "Affiliates who have engaged in scientific research in American archaeology, and who have published upon their research in recognized scientific media may be elected Fellows"
- "An application for election as a Fellow must include a brief biography of the applicant; the nature of his interest or training in American archaeology; the extent of his experience in field and laboratory research; and a list of his publications. It must be endorsed by at least two Fellows in good standing, one of whom must know the applicant personally."
- "When an application for a fellowship has been received by the Secretary-Treasurer, he shall submit the name and all pertinent information to the Council, the members of which will proceed to vote upon the application. If two votes against approval are cast, the application shall be laid on the table without prejudice toward the applicant, and his endorsers notified of the action taken. If the application is approved by the Council, the applicant's name shall be placed before the next annual meeting for election."

Nominee (full name).....Arthur Caswell Parker..... Age 55 Date Nov. 15, '35

Field of specialization Archaeology of New York and contiguous region

Extent of academic or practical training (under whom, length of service, with dates):

With Frederick Ward Putnam, 1902-03 (Peabody Museum); American Museum of Natural History, (with M. Raymond Harrington) '03; with John Mason Clarke, (State Geologist), as N.Y. State Archeologist, '05-'25; as director of field expeditions, Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, '25----

Experience in research (positions held and projects undertaken, with dates):

Assistant in archeology, American Museum, '00-02, research work directed by Prof. F.W. Putnam, (study of polished states, coastal archeology; Peabody Museum (Cambridge) studies of N.Y. Archeology; research work for N.Y. State Library, '04-05; as State Archeologist, research under Prof. Clarke, New York archeology, '05-'25; directed New York archeological research for Rochester Museum '25--; started Pennsylvania archeological survey in 1925-30.

Publications (List the more important titles, giving full references):

Erie Indian Village Site, (Excavations in an), 1907, (N.Y. State Museum; Annual reports on N.Y. archeology, '06-25, N.Y. State Museum Archeological History of N.Y. (1919) N.Y. State Museum. About 50 papers in various publications, as "Origin of the Iroquois as determined by archeology, Amer. Anthropol. several papers in Researches and Transactions of N.Y. State Arch. Ass'n.; Manual for History Museums, 1935. About 13 books, several State Museum bulletins, about 200 papers on social science subjects (Nominator and seconder must be Fellows)

Nominator

Action of Council

Figure 1. Parker's application for Fellow, SAA. (National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Fellowship Applications, NMNH, SAA Archives, Box 35) (Photo by M. Kapches)

NOMINATION FOR FELLOW IN THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

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Nominee (full name) William A. Ritchie Age 32 Date Nov. 25, 1935

Field of specialization Archaeology of New York State

Extent of academic or practical training (under whom, length of service, with dates):

B.S. University of Rochester (1926)
Practical training under Arthur C. Parker, 1925-

Experience in research (positions held and projects undertaken, with dates):

Assistant in Archaeology, Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1924-1928
Assistant Archaeologist " " " " " " 1929-
Excavation of more than 35 archaeological sites in various parts of New York and Pennsylvania.

Publications (List the more important titles, giving full references):

Hammer-tongues, Arrows, and Certain Pecked Stones - Trans. + Research, N.Y. State Archaeol. Assoc. Vol. VII, No. 2, 1929
Early Human - Neufund Sand Knoll Sites in Western New York - " " " " " " Vol. VII, No. 3, 1930
The Lander Lake Site, etc. " " " " " " Vol. VII, No. 4, 1932
An Algonquin-Ingonis Contact Site On Castle Creek, etc., Research Records, Roch. Mus. No. 2, 1934
The Algonquin Sequence in New York, American Anthropologist, Vol. 34, No. 3, 1932
The Occurrence of Multiple Bone Lesions Suggesting Myeloma in the Skeleton of a Pre-Columbian Indian - The American Journal of Roentgenology + Radium Therapy, Vol. XXIII, No. 5, 1932
(Nominator and seconder must be Fellows) (And others)

Nominator Arthur C. Parker

Action of Council

Seconder

Elected by Society

Figure 2. Ritchie's application for Fellow, SAA. (National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Fellowship Applications, NMNH, SAA Archives, Box 35) (Photo by M. Kapches)

Parker, Ritchie & Wray and the SAA, 1934-1938 (continued)

I did not focus my research to look for other New York State archaeologists who may have been early members of the SAA. If I recognized names then I read their documents. This led to discovery of the correspondence of another well-known archaeologist with New York ties, R.S. MacNeish. The letters between MacNeish and Guthe provide an amusing snapshot of the beginning of his illustrious career.

MacNeish, then a student at Colgate University, wrote Guthe November 1, 1937, to apply to become a member of the SAA and purchase back issues of *American Antiquity* (National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, NMNH, SAA Archives, Secretary File Correspondence, Box 42). He enclosed \$9 because "Ritchie told me that this was the amount..." Here again Ritchie can be seen encouraging membership in the SAA. MacNeish then goes on to add "my archaeological interest was the Maya civilization. However I have never done any field work in that section.... Thus I would very much appreciate if you would please notify me of any expeditions which are doing work in the Yucatan or Guatemala." At that time MacNeish had worked in Rainbow Bridge monument "and very little in N.Y. state with Rochester Museum."

Guthe replied to MacNeish March 3, 1938. The first paragraph of the letter he apologizes for his tardy reply and then deals with membership in the SAA; the second paragraph is a response to MacNeish's request for information about working in the Maya region. Since I am not including this letter as a figure here is the paragraph:

I wish I could help you a little more in being able to get down into Guatemala or Mexico on some archaeological field work in the Maya area. Unfortunately, I can be of little assistance. The field season for this area is usually in the spring. As far as I know, there are only three groups of workers who go to that area at all regularly. Because of the overhead involved in transportation, and the length of the field season, it is customary to choose members for these expeditions in terms of the amount of work they have had in archaeology. I am sure that you understand that under these circumstances, graduate students from several training schools are most likely to be selected. My long delay in writing you has, of course, ruined your chances for getting down south some time this spring. (National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, NMNH, SAA Archives, Secretary File Correspondence, Box 42)

I found this letter amusing, just to know that even great archaeologists had started their careers as unknowns needing to earn their stripes in the field before they could move on. Shortly after writing this letter MacNeish transferred from Colgate to the University of Chicago to work with Professor Fay-Cooper Cole and his archaeological career began in earnest.

Today it's hard to imagine a time when the SAA did not exist. In 1934 that was a reality and as a result during the early years of the organization there was a lot of work put in by the inaugural executive and fellows to grow the membership. They were so successful that by the first year there were nearly 700 members. That it grew so quickly indicates it filled the need for a professional organization for archaeologists in the Americas, a role it still fulfills today. The documents and letters in the SAA archives provide footnotes about the careers of Parker, Ritchie, Wray and MacNeish and I hope that you have found them interesting.

References Cited

- Guthe, C.E.
1967 Reflections on the Founding of the Society for American Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 32:433-440.
- Kapches, M.
2021 Canadians and the Founding of the Society for American Archaeology (1934-1940s). *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 45:53-76.

Gravestone Preservation

By Tina & Dale Utter, Central NYS Cemetery Network/Chenango Chapter, NYSAA

In the last newsletter we talked about restoring neglected cemeteries. We will now take a brief look at gravestone preservation. In most, if not all cemeteries you visit, you can't help but notice all of the downed or leaning gravestones. This makes for a very sad sight. Many cemeteries have been ignored for years and each year more stones start leaning or fall to the ground. Sadly, some may break or at a minimum they become subject to lawn mower damage.

We spend a lot of time correcting these situations. If a tablet stone is down, you dig a hole and, you need to bury at least one-third of the stone (Figure 1). If you bury less than that it won't be long before the stone will start leaning again. If it is leaning you dig down on the backside of the lean until you reach the bottom of the stone. Whether it is leaning or a reset, the next step is the same. Straighten and then fill the hole back in around the stone. Periodically stop and tamp the loose dirt with a wooden 2x4 or other piece of wood. This part is very important as it compacts the soil around the stone and keeps it from leaning again.

We have been in numerous cemeteries and discovered people had used crushed stone or marble chips. This is not a good idea as it does not allow the material to be compacted around the stone and immediately the stone will be loose. If they had mixed in some sand or dirt then they may have been alright as long as it could be compacted.

Levelling monuments is more difficult and can be somewhat dangerous so I will not go into that here. These jobs require a professional or someone who has training in this process.

As we wander cemeteries throughout the area, we often stumble upon interesting gravestone repairs and the use of props to keep the stone from falling over. We have seen duct tape, barb wire as well as other wire, wooden bracing, aluminum and stainless steel channel, tree branches to keep the stone up, caulk, rebar, metal strapping, liquid nails, JB Weld, inappropriate epoxies and the list goes on.



Figure 1. Before and after photographs shoeing gravestone straightening and cleaning.

Gravestone Preservation (continued)

We are usually quite amused by the ingenuity of people and their determination to do something. They seem to use whatever knowledge they have and the materials they have at hand. If they had done nothing then this stone may have just laid on the ground and slowly deteriorated or been destroyed by a lawn mower or the pieces lost forever. We give people credit for perhaps saving a stone for a later repair or reset but they can easily cause permanent damage to the stone by using incorrect repair materials and methods.



Figures 2 and 3. Examples of early gravestone repair using bolts and iron straps.

We have read newspaper articles from the late 1800s that talk about the neglected cemeteries at that time. Apparently the disregard for our cemeteries is nothing new. The oldest repairs would probably be the use of metal strapping to repair broken stones (Figures 2 and 3). For this they drill a hole through the strapping and then the stone and then bolt the pieces together. You can have strapping on both the front and back, as well as each side, with the holes set both below and above the break. We have also seen just one piece of strapping in the center of the stone, both front and back, and only one bolt used. This was an old practice and is not an acceptable repair alternative anymore. What happens, as time goes by, the bolt rusts and expands. As the expansion occurs it can blow out a piece of the gravestone and causes even more damage thus making repairs even more difficult, time consuming and expensive.



Figures 4 and 5. Examples of early gravestone repair using caulking and Portland cement.

Another old repair method was to use Portland cement in a mortar mix (Figures 4 and 5). These are easily found as the mortar is extended both below and above the break, usually in the front as well as the back. They are often very unsightly repairs and often

Gravestone Preservation (continued)

cover up the inscription or epitaph. Again, people used the knowledge and materials they had and at one time this was the primary method of repair. Many of these repairs are now failing but we can't help but wonder how long ago they were done. We wonder how long our repairs will last with the current materials we use.

Today we use more sophisticated materials for our repairs. The most common repair material is epoxy. This is not just any epoxy you can buy in the store. It is made for natural stone, to be used outside and to exist in the temperature extremes we find in our area. It is critical to follow the instructions on the label if you want a successful repair.

Epoxy is used by many people as it is easy to use and repairs can be done quickly. We use it for certain applications but prefer not to use it unless there is no other choice. Epoxy is a synthetic material and not the least bit compatible with the stone. We question the long-term viability of these repairs. Only time will tell if the use of this product was a good choice.



Figure 6. Photographs showing a gravestone before and after restoration.

We are in the minority but we like to use lime-based mortars for our repairs (Figure 6). They take more time, are not as strong and leave a wider repair line than epoxies do but we think the positive aspects out way the negative. These mortars are made from natural stone dust which gives them properties similar to the stone they are being used to repair. In that regard, we believe they will last longer than an epoxy repair. The stone needs to breathe and these mortars allow that while epoxies do not.

The preceding is not an instruction on how to go out and do this type of work but is presented merely to educate people on the proper techniques used in this field. There is never any substitute for proper training and learning how to do things the right way. The pictures that follow below show some of the more unusual repairs that we've seen in cemeteries across New York State.



News from the Daniel H. Weiskotten Scholarship Committee

So many NYSAA members donate to this scholarship each year and the Dan Weiskotten Scholarship Committee wanted to share a letter they received from recent scholarship recipient Katie Cosman. Katie's enthusiasm comes through in her letter, and we look forward to hearing more about her as she continues her professional and academic pursuits. Anyone wishing to make a tax deductible contribution to the Daniel H. Weiskotten Scholarship Fund may do so by mailing a check to: Michael Beardsley, 301 Deep Springs Drive, Chittenango, NY 13037. Make your check payable to "Daniel Weiskotten Scholarship Fund."

Hello,

I am writing this letter for a few different reasons, the first and most important of which is to thank you for awarding me half of the Daniel H. Weiskotten scholarship last April. The second reason is to describe the amazing opportunity I was able to experience with it. After receiving the scholarship I immediately put it towards the Frost Town field school that I mentioned in my original application. This was my first experience taking part in a field school and it did not disappoint, the knowledge and fun memories I gained over those three weeks only deepened my love of archaeology more. The Frost Town Archaeology field school was held over 3 weeks in the middle of the summer and our "lab" and meeting location took place out of the Cumming Nature Center in Naples, New York. The site in particular was out along the trails of the Nature Center and is believed to originally have been a logging town during the 18th century.

The site we primarily focused on during this time was what we have been referring to as the "Hall Residence". Because of its age, the original house foundation was severely collapsed and overgrown with weeds. Once we had cleaned it out we decided to open up a few trenches within the structure to see if we would find any artifacts relating to our main focus site. This primary focus was right next to the stone foundation, and was what we were hoping would turn out to be an out-building or kitchen. We found many different artifacts that could have fit this hypothesis, but the most significant were the man shards of broken bowls and plates. As the weeks went on, the team gradually dispersed from this main house site and began investigating other locations around the clearing. One of these sites in particular, and the one I ended up working in the most, is what we named the Exploratory Trench. We chose the location of this trench after some of our STPs uncovered large pieces of metal and what looked to be parts of a stone wall. The Exploratory Trench was by far the most strenuous out of our sites, being full of large rocks, ant colonies and fully exposed to the hot summer sun (while the team in the Hall Residence trench was lucky to be shaded by a large black walnut tree). However, it turned out that our small, hot trench was more plentiful in the long run! On our very last day we uncovered horseshoes and what looked to be a horse bit, which has led us to the conclusion that this part of the site was most likely a carriage house! I hope that excavations will continue at the Exploratory Trench during the next field season, so that more discoveries can be uncovered.



Stone foundation of the original Hall residence

News from the Daniel H. Weiskotten Scholarship Committee (continued)



**Our main excavation site
alongside the Hall Residence**

Overall, this was truly a wonderful experience and I cannot wait to visit the next team of Frost Town archaeologists in the years to come. Since this field school, I have gone to many more informational talks about the site, and have also taken part in more Family Archaeology Day excavations as a trench supervisor! In the coming weeks I will also be giving a presentation on the site to a class I am a TA in. I made many new friends in those weeks and had a wonderful and enriching experience, which I would not have been able to do without the help of your scholarship.

Thank you again for helping me succeed in this opportunity, I cannot wait to expand my archaeological research and take part in more excavations in the future!

Not only did we spend the majority of our weeks excavating, we also partnered up with the Rochester Museum and Science Center and spent a week excavating with children from ages 10-15. During their time with us we taught them different skills on how to properly excavate and how to look for archaeological material. It was lots of fun for them and us as well, to them it was just fun to dig and find things in the dirt but for us, we got to learn how to teach the younger generation about how to be an archaeologist. Towards the end of the field school we also opened our site up to the public. With the help of the Nature Center, we set up tables full of artifacts that we had collected, along with hands on dry and wet brushing stations for people to examine. We also brought them out to our site and walked them around, showing them each trench and describing the hard work that we put in to finding out more about this beautiful area and its history.



**Me running the wet brushing station
during our Community Day**



FTA Family Archaeology Day



FTA 2022 Team!

“Cemetery” Business

Tina & Dale Utter, Central NYS Cemetery Network/Chenango Chapter, NYSAA

This past year has proven to be a very busy one for us. Our work started in Sidney’s Pioneer Cemetery where we reset stones that were down, straightened leaning ones, repaired broken ones, levelled monuments and cleaned many others. Our efforts continued until June, then, with our guest Mary Dexter who is known for her research on Coffin Man, we gave a tour of the cemetery as part of the 250th celebration of the founding of Sidney (Figure 1). Over 50 people came to hear about the special gravestones and people buried there as well as learn about the gravestone carvers who had set stones there so many years ago.



Figure 1. Mary Dexter at cemetery tour demonstrating headstone/footstone placement.

well as Joe and Laura Fiore (Figure 2). We instructed them in making concrete collars and bases and the art of doing gravestone repairs. This is exciting for us as they take this new knowledge and apply it in their own cemetery work. We also received numerous calls from people seeking some advice on how to deal with various gravestone/cemetery issues.

We handled several interesting projects that came along. At the Davenport Center Cemetery we reset and repaired the stone: “Mary wife of Timothy Murphy the Indian killer died Oct 20, 1861” (Figure 3). Timothy Murphy was a local hero from the Revolutionary War. We had the privilege of working with John Ricklefs of the Evergreen Cemetery Committee in Owego and reset the stone of George Milne. He was a little over one year old when he was laid to rest in the Pauper’s Field in 1852. Over time his stone had become broken and neglected and just lay on top of the ground. We were proud to repair a gravestone for the Owego Police Benevolent Association for their fallen comrade Isaac Wiltsie who was killed on duty July 17, 1869. It appears someone had shot and damaged his gravestone several years ago.

The highlight of our year was attending the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) annual conference held in Beverly, Massachusetts in June. This event is a fun time where we attend presentations, go on cemetery tours, learn from a gravestone preservation workshop and just mingle with other likeminded cemetery people. We were thrilled to see our dear friend and Cemetery Network member, Mary Dexter, receive the highest honor given out by AGS, the Harriet Merrifield Forbes Award, for her nearly 50 years of gravestone carver research and cemetery work. Thank you Mary, for a job well done!

In the spring we had received calls from two groups wondering if we would do workshops in their cemeteries so their volunteers could learn some basic gravestone preservation practices. There are so many cemeteries needing help and we realized a long time ago we cannot do it all. We want to thank the Tully Cemetery Association and the group of Quakers working in the Quaker Cemetery at Morris for contacting us and giving us the opportunity to teach them so they could continue with gravestone/cemetery preservation efforts themselves.

We worked with Steve Kotula from our own Cemetery Network as



Figure 2. Steve Kotula at work.

“Cementary” Business (continued)



Figure 3. Gravestone of Mary Murphy with Dale Utter, Joe and Laura Fiore, Tina Utter

We are pleased to be part of a long-term project with the New York Digital Heritage Collection. The Central NYS Cemetery Network has created a collection for “Gravestones and Carvers of New York State, Pre-1850.” This is an extremely important effort to document some of the many early gravestone carvers found here in Upstate NY by showing examples of their work.

Much of our work this year has been an effort to bring signs and recognition to selected cemeteries. Several years ago, we became involved in restoring Wakeman Cemetery near Walton. This cemetery had been neglected for many years and had gone through two floods from the adjacent creek. Through the efforts of the landowners, Gordy and Karin Fletcher, and that of their son-in-law Nate Smith, we were able to get the job done (Figures 4 and 5).

Although this cemetery was a small burial site of ten family members, they provided a colorful glimpse into the past. We were intrigued by their life’s stories and did a lot of research on the entire family. Those hours of cemetery work and research led to our application to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a historical marker which they funded and now stands in tribute to the cemetery (Figure 6). Most of you have seen the beautiful signs with a blue background and yellow lettering along the road. They do an excellent job of telling and preserving local history.



Figure 4. Wakeman Cemetery prior to brush removal.

It was at one of these meetings that we had the pleasure and honor of meeting Bill Pomeroy who is the founder of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. We discovered he not only had a passion for history but seemed to have a particular interest in cemeteries. We became friends and went on a couple of cemetery tours together and corresponded about some cemetery projects and issues. He learned about our involvement with

For the last ten years, Tina and I have explored cemeteries all over NYS. It has always saddened us to come upon these old cemeteries and, since there was no sign, we had no idea what it was called. It was further evidence of their neglect.

Several years ago, we decided to do something about it. We hired a couple of local people to make signs for a few of our favorite unnamed cemeteries and we even hand



Figure 5. Wakeman Cemetery after restoration.

“Cementary” Business (continued)

cemeteries and our cemetery sign pursuits. He is a great guy!

It was almost a year ago that we got an email from Bill and he expressed the idea of the Pomeroy Foundation offering a special signage program for cemeteries. We were thrilled to hear that news. He put us in touch with his daughter Deryn which eventually led to the development of a pilot program for cemetery markers. It has been a privilege to work with Deryn on this rewarding project.

Once the sign details were worked out, we were asked to pick a cemetery for this first sign. This was no easy task as so many cemeteries need one. We finally decided on Harmony Cemetery, near Morris, for many reasons. The most obvious was it needed a sign.

Several years ago, we were contacted by Gary Norman and he wondered if we would do a workshop at this cemetery so he and his volunteers could learn how to do improvements themselves. We enthusiastically agreed. At that time, we demonstrated gravestone cleaning, resetting and monument levelling. Since then, we have been back to demonstrate gravestone repair.

What impressed us most, since the cemetery's inception in 1803, the Zion Episcopal Church has had responsibility for the cemetery for over two hundred years. Their care is readily evident. Our selection of this cemetery was not only to provide a sign to an unmarked cemetery but to reward Gary, who is the Vicar of the church, and his volunteers for a job well done and say thank you not only to the current caretakers but also to those who came before them.

Since then, we have added another sign to Hinman Cemetery near Pitcher (Figure 7). These are attractive signs with a chocolate-brown background and cream-colored lettering with a Tree of Life on the top and set on a black post. We hope to add many more signs in the future. At this time, it is still a pilot program and the details of who and when the grants will be available for this sign are still being worked out. We do expect to see them displayed on their website next year.

Another Pomeroy Foundation sign that we received a grant for was a Patriot Burials marker for Evergreen Cemetery at White Store (Figure 8). This is another sign similar to their historical markers but is totally dedicated to the patriots of the Revolutionary War. At Evergreen Cemetery, through extensive research, it was discovered that at least seventeen patriots were buried here. These signs are sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution. We want to thank them for all their help and support in making this sign possible and for arranging the sign dedication and unveiling.

For anyone wanting to know more about the signs we have just mentioned, you can visit the website, William G. Pomeroy Foundation, and they will provide all the details for procuring these signs. The application must be from a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and if approved, there is no cost for these memorable markers.

On one of our cemetery jaunts, we visited a cemetery in Lawyersville near Cobleskill. We were surprised to find six gravestones with winged faces. Further down the road, at another cemetery, we found four more. Winged faces in this part of NY are rare, to find ten all done by the same carver, was amazing. We wondered what the story was. When we got home Tina posted some pictures of the stones on Facebook on the internet. Much to our surprise, a friend from Connecticut informed us they were the work of John Isham.

“Cemetery” Business (continued)



Figure 6. Wakeman Cemetery sign with Gordon and Karin Fletcher and Nate Smith.



Figure 8. Evergreen Cemetery Patriot Burials marker with David Powell and Scott Payne.



Figure 7. Hinman Cemetery sign with Jeffrey Blanchard and George Seneck, Tina, Dale



Figure 9. John Isham sign at Zion Rural Cemetery.

Our research culminated in us wanting to place a historical marker at the Zion Rural Cemetery where five of his stones can be found. We wanted other people to know who this carver was and his story. Unfortunately, we identified John Isham as the carver by visual identification of his work which was not acceptable for the Pomeroy Foundation to fund the sign. We felt very strongly that this sign was important. With help from Mary Dexter, we provided the funds to procure this sign ourselves (Figure 9).

One day, while we were working in Riverside Cemetery near South New Berlin, a woman approached us. She said she never sees anyone working in a cemetery doing gravestone preservation work so she had to say Hi. We talked and it turns out she was a direct descendent of a gravestone carver named Erastus Cross of Utica who carved during the 1820s to circa 1848. We showed her two Cross stones that were in the cemetery and she was thrilled.

“Cementary” Business (continued)



Figure 10. “Cementary” Sign.

As the weather changes into winter, we set our shovels and cleaning materials aside and turn to doing cemetery cleanups. We worked in East Masonville Cemetery and Amblerville Cemetery where we cleaned up some downed trees, removed saplings, goldenrod and blackberry briars. At the Chenango County Poorhouse Cemetery, we thinned out some overcrowded trees. Now that the weather is even worse, our focus will be on research, signs and writing. We will keep very busy until we get the call in the spring to get back into our cemeteries and do more work.

Some of you may be wondering why the title of “Cementary” Business (Figure 10). We have seen many signs for cemeteries and always chuckle when we see it spelled cemetery. This sign brought an extra smile to our day!

NYSAA Outreach at the Knickerbocker Mansion Public Archaeology Event

Vivian James, Chenango Chapter

During the summer of 2022, members of four New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) chapters volunteered in a successful public outreach project at the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke, New York. Volunteers from the Adirondack Chapter, Auringer Seelye Chapter, and Van Epps-Hartly Chapter collaborated with NYSAA Vice President David Moyer of Birchwood Archaeological Services and Vivian James, who are members of the Chenango Chapter of the NYSAA, to introduce children and adults to archaeology in partnership with the Community Archaeology Program (CAP) of SUNY-Schenectady County Community College (SUNY-SCCC) and the Knickerbocker Historical Society (KHS) that maintains the Knickerbocker Mansion as a museum and educational institution.



Knickerbocker Mansion Archaeology Project, June 2022

The project had both archaeological and public archaeology goals. The archaeology goals of the KHS were to locate the foundation of an earlier building in the front yard of the existing mansion that was built around 1780, determine the size of the earlier building, and evaluate what happened to that building. To answer these questions, Vivian James and David Moyer reviewed previous archaeological work at the mansion before developing a site grid and sampling strategy. Dan Bradt provided ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to non-invasively assess the site and GPR demonstrations throughout the event. The public archaeology goals of the Knickerbocker Mansion Archaeology Project (KMAP) were to promote archaeology and historic preservation by involving members of the public in an archaeology fieldwork experience, reconnect current members and attract new members to NYSAA and the KHS, and rebuild the archaeology stakeholder community after two years of required social distancing in response to the global pandemic.

NYSAA Outreach at the Knickerbocker Mansion Public Archaeology Event (Continued)



Demonstrating Ground Penetrating Radar at Knickerbocker Mansion

The KMAP was wildly successful! The 25 volunteers from CAP, KHS, and NYSAA had an outreach impact to 80 people. Event participants came from all over New York State as far away as Long Island and Vestal, with the most distant travelers being from Michigan and South Carolina.



Adirondack Chapter Members and a KHS Member Excavating Foundation Stones

The public excavation began on Father's Day and several fathers brought their children and families to learn about archaeology in addition to the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York and the Stillwater/Mechanicville Boy Scout Troop #4305. While the girl scouts do not have an archaeology badge, David Moyer helped five boy scouts earn their archaeology badges during the four-day (June 18-19 and June 25-26) KMAP public archaeology event. One woman earned field school credit towards her CAP archaeology certificate.

NYSAA Outreach at the Knickerbocker Mansion Public Archaeology Event (Continued)



Stillwater/Mechanicville Boy Scouts Learning How to Excavate

The excavation was followed by an Artifact Cleaning Workshop at the Knickerbocker Mansion on August 29th as well as artifact identification during KHS' Harvest Days Festival held every September. NYSAA members from around New York State showed up again in support of these follow-up events. On the surprisingly warm day of Sunday, October 30th, Vivian James and David Moyer presented the preliminary findings at the Knickerbocker Mansion, which was well-attended by people from the local community as well as members of the KHS and NYSAA.



Auringer Seelye Chapter and Van Epps-Hartley Chapter Members Cleaning Artifacts, October 2022

David Moyer and Vivian James as well as the KHS extend their thanks to all of the volunteers who made the 2022 KMAP Public Archaeology Event a success.

From the Adirondack Chapter of NYSAA: Marie Ellsworth, Larry Handy, Jeanie Mullin, Jim Reilly, and John Schroeter.

From the Auringer Seelye Chapter of NYSAA: Bob Fusco and Don Griffin.

From the Chenango Chapter of NYSAA: David Moyer and Vivian James.

From the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of NYSAA: Fred Stevens and Luanne Whitbeck.

From the Community Archaeology Program of SUNY-SCCC: Louise Basa, Dan Bradt, and Jonathan Peace.

From the Knickerbocker Historical Society: Leslie Allen, Charis Battaglia, Nadine Battaglia, JoAnne Borden, Joe Ferrannini, Reebie Ratoon Resnick, Diane Welch, Sophia Welch, and Craig Wilson.

And special thanks to unaffiliated volunteers Kate Clugston and Silas Moyer.

NYSAA members interested in volunteering for continuing work on the KMAP may contact Vivian James by email (preferred) to vsjames@tds.net or phone (770) 548-1384.

CNYS Cemetery Network “Excellence Award”

Presented by Cem Net Members Tina and Dale Utter

For the last 10 years we have travelled throughout NYS. During that time, we have noticed many abandoned and neglected cemeteries as well as many receiving just minimal care. We are always very pleased when we stumble across a cemetery that the stewards are obviously going above and beyond in giving it special care and attention. Nestled in the hills, overlooking the Unadilla River, you will find one of those cemeteries. It is Evergreen Cemetery at White Store in the Town of Norwich in Chenango County.

Here you will find a tranquil setting surrounded by stone walls and majestic maple trees. There are over 1300 burials located here with the first one in 1795. A beautiful lane extends through the middle of the cemetery with 100-year-old cedar trees bordering each side. In the late summer you will find lovely, old fashioned hydrangeas in blossom. In front of the cemetery, is a church reminiscent of a New England meeting house that was built in 1820 and has remained relatively unchanged for over 160 years with no electricity or running water.



Members of the Evergreen Cemetery Association receiving their award

The Evergreen Cemetery Association, lead by Clay Welch, takes great pride in the care of both the church and the cemetery. The following are some of the many things that make this place so special.

- three socials per year to provide funding for the church and cemetery
- ongoing gravestone preservation work
- rebuilt part of their stone wall
- board member, Margie Casey, as well as others, have spent many hours cleaning gravestones
- Margie has also given the veterans buried here special attention
- the cemetery is surrounded by many wonderful maple trees but the need was recognized that some needed to be cut down before they fell and caused immeasurable damage to the gravestones
- when it was noticed that the gravestones were being damaged by regular lawn maintenance, they took action to correct that
- they have developed an informational brochure that depicts the Revolutionary War veterans buried here that is available to anyone walking into the cemetery
- they print a newsletter giving news of the cemetery and the church
- they do spring and fall cemetery cleanups
- a Patriot Burials historic marker funded by the Pomeroy Foundation as well as a newly installed flag pole greets visitors

Representing the CNYS Cemetery Network, in November, we were pleased to present the Evergreen Cemetery Association a certificate for “Excellence in Care.” We commended the cemetery board members for their hard work and outstanding care and thanked them for a job well done.

Recent Publications

On the Trail of

COFFIN MAN

Researching 19th Century Gravestone Carvers of
Central New York State



Mary L. Dexter

On the Trail of Coffin Man: Researching 19th Century Gravestone Carvers of Central New York State— Mary L. Dexter

If you love cemeteries, you'll want to learn more about the people who carved the unique gravestones. The book is based on the author's 45 years of research into the cemeteries and gravestones in Central New York. A look at the carver Jonas Stewart, 2nd (aka Coffin Man), his apprentices "Open Urn" and "Eclectic Man" in NY & PA. This journey also includes the Stewart/Stuart family of gravestone carvers in VT, NH and MA. There is also a look at other gravestone carvers in Central NY including J. Crandall. She focuses on the stories, skills, and creativity of five gravestone carvers with examples of their work.

On the Trail of Coffin Man - by Mary L. Dexter

Published by Mary L. Dexter

2020

128 pages

\$20.00 softcover

Available from the History Center in Tompkins County

<https://thehistorycenter.net/Sys/Store/Products/240439>

The Archaeology of Harriet Tubman's Life in Freedom— Douglas V. Armstrong

Harriet Tubman's social activism as well as her efforts as a soldier, nurse, and spy have been retold in countless books and films and have justly elevated her to iconic status in American history. Given her fame and contributions, it is surprising how little is known of her later years and her continued efforts for social justice, women's rights, and care for the elderly. Tubman housed and cared for her extended family, parents, brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews, as well as many other African Americans seeking refuge. Ultimately her house just outside of Auburn, New York, would become a focal point of Tubman's expanded efforts to provide care to those who came to her seeking shelter and support, in the form of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged.

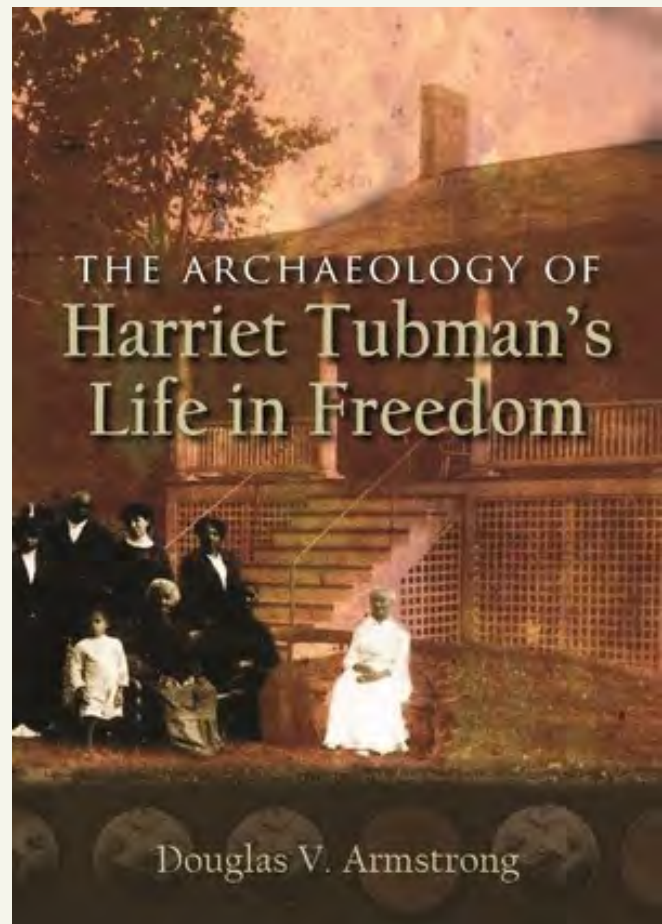
In this book, Armstrong reconstructs and interprets Tubman's public and private life in freedom through integrating his archaeological findings with historical research. The material record Tubman left behind sheds vital light on her life and the ways in which she interacted with local and national communities, giving readers a fuller understanding of her impact on the lives of African Americans. Armstrong's research is part of a wider effort to enhance public interpretation and engagement with the Harriet Tubman Home.

Syracuse University Press, 2022

504 pages, 93 black and white illustrations, 8 maps

\$49.95 Paper/\$110 Hardcover

<https://press.syr.edu/supressbooks/3956/archaeology-of-harriet-tubman-s-life-in-freedom-the/>



Douglas V. Armstrong

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